

The Signal

Fort Gordon

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News UPDATE

Assumption of Command

The Air Force 480th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group's (Provisional) assumption of command ceremony is scheduled for 8 a.m. today on Barton Field. Air Force Col. Michael B. Meyer, Strategy Director for the Force-Reintegration Cell, NATO International Security Assistance Force, Kabul, Afghanistan, takes command of the 480th I.S.R. Group (Provisional). For more information, call 791-0004.

Change of Responsibility

The 369th Signal Battalion's change of responsibility ceremony is scheduled for 8 a.m. Oct. 15 on Barton Field. Outgoing is Command Sgt. Maj. Gerald Tyce and incoming is Command Sgt. Maj. Oree White. A reception will be held at the 369th Signal Bn.'s conference room following the ceremony. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Chad Owens at 791-1136 or e-mail chad.owens1@us.army.mil.

Job Fair

The Army Career and Alumni Program, Army Community Service, Georgia Department of Labor, and the Veterans Affairs Seamless Transition Center are sponsoring a job fair Oct. 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Fort Gordon Army Reserve Center, Bldg. 14401. The first hour of the job fair, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., will only be open to those assigned to the Warriors in Transition Unit. The job fair is open to the public from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. More than 50 employers will be there. For more information call 791-7333 or 791-2009.

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Trips' n' Tours in Washington, Ga.
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'Friend, comedian, Soldier, teacher, husband, father...'



A picture, boots, rifle, helmet, and identification tags were on display Sept. 23 at Alexander Hall for the memorial ceremony of Sgt. John Franklin Burner III, who died Sept. 16 while deployed in support of Operation New Dawn.

Photos by Spc. Terysa Shaffer



Col. Marc D. Harris, 35th Signal Brigade commander presents Verena Burner with the Gold Wahatchee award during a memorial ceremony held for her husband, Sgt. John F. Burner III.

Sgt. William D. Norris

35th Signal Brigade,
Public Affairs NCOIC

There was not an empty seat at Alexander Hall during the memorial ceremony for Sgt. John F. Burner III Sept. 23. Burner died Sept. 16 in Iskandariya, Iraq. He deployed in support of Operation New Dawn Aug. 21 with B Company, 63rd Signal Battalion.

Burner led a long and celebrated career as a United States servicemember. Calling Baltimore home, he joined the Army in 1996 at age 18 and attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon in 1997 where he earned the military occupational specialty as a satellite communication systems operator and maintainer, 25S. Burner served with the 442nd Signal Co., Darmstadt, Germany; the 235th Tactical Satellite Detachment, Doha, Kuwait; and C Co., 63rd Signal Bn. Burner was eventually assigned to B Co., 63rd Signal Bn., and deployed to Iraq.

Burner had many friends throughout the 35th Signal Brigade, three of which spoke during the ceremony. Capt. Curtis Andries, Sgt. 1st Class Terry Moore, and Sgt. Phillip Whaley all had nothing but kind words to say about him.

"Friend, comedian, Soldier, teacher, husband, father, training NCO, and Facebook game fanatic," were a few words that Whaley used to describe Burner.

Family was everything to Burner. He is survived by his wife Verena, and two daughters Celina, age 10 and Caitlyn, age 6. Burner's family received the Gold Order of Mercury on his behalf. The Gold Order of Mercury is the highest award that the Signal Regiment can bestow upon a Signal Soldier. His wife was also presented with the Gold Wahatchee award during the ceremony.

Sgt. John Franklin Burner III is scheduled to receive the Bronze Star Medal posthumously. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., October 13 with full military honors.

Army, major mortgage financiers sign 'forbearance' agreement

Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Army, Fannie Mae and several of the country's largest home financiers signed a memorandum of commitment Sept. 27 at the Pentagon which will help Soldiers and their families who are in trouble with their mortgages.

Mortgage lenders joining with Fannie Mae in signing the agreement with the Army included Bank of America, Citi-Mortgage, JP Morgan/Chase, USAA, Wells Fargo, First Citizens Bank and Luxury Mortgage Corp.

In addition, Fannie Mae announced that Soldiers injured on active duty can be granted relief for up to six months from paying their mortgage. During this period of "forbearance," participating banks have agreed not to report any delinquency to credit bureaus. This same relief from mortgage payments is also available to family members of servicemembers killed in action.

Jeff Hayward, senior vice president of Fannie Mae's National Servicing Organization said that during the six-month forbearance period his company would work with Soldiers and families to find a permanent solution to paying back their mortgage. That solution might include a loan modification or selling their house. He said about 80 percent of the nation's mortgages are covered by Fannie Mae and participating lenders.

"There are a lot of people in this company who have a real passion to do something for Soldiers," said Hayward. "We found that the population for the Army is really not that much different than the general population, with the exception that the general population is not out on active duty and that does make and call for special action."

Aside from forbearance, Hayward

added that Fannie Mae had created a special hotline which is available to all servicemembers who need guidance with their mortgage options.

Hayward said Fannie Mae also went online with a new website last month that also outlines choices available to struggling homeowners and provides guidance on how they can work with their mortgage lenders to avoid foreclosure. The website is www.KnowYourOptions.com/military.

Patrick Sheehy said his company, Chase Home Lending, was approached by Mary Scott, the Fort Gordon, Ga., housing manager who created the idea of an agreement between the lenders and the Army to provide forbearance.

"She realized a lot of military members were struggling just like traditional Americans were with paying their mortgages and also with trying to find financing if they hadn't bought a home yet," he said. "So this was pretty much right in our sweet spot in being able to help our country ... and to provide assistance for people who have been serving our country."

Scott said one of the main issues she was concerned about was that during the housing market turndown, Soldiers were still transferring but weren't able to sell their homes before leaving for their new duty stations.

"There were programs in place for those who were already unable to pay their mortgages, but there was no program for those Soldiers who were current with their loans, but who were anticipating at some point in time they would not be because they couldn't continue to pay rent at a new location and a mortgage at the last," she said.

For her work on the project, Kathleen Marin, director of installation services presented Scott with the country's third highest civilian award, the "Superior Civilian Service Award,"



Courtesy photo

Mary Scott, Fort Gordon housing manager, is pinned with the Superior Civilian Service Award Sept. 27 after a signing ceremony with major financiers focused on mortgage relief for injured Soldiers.

A series of meetings and teleconferences resulted in an agreement with lenders that include:

- A catalog of mortgage services and programs for installation housing service offices to use when counseling Soldiers and family members on home ownership
- A hotline number that HSO counselors can call for answers to questions from Soldiers and families regarding existing mortgages
- A program in which lenders and Army counselors will work closely together to understand each other's programs

for initiating the concepts behind the forbearance program and getting the lenders together to brainstorm how they could help Soldiers and their families.

At the signing, Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment) told the lenders that the Army needed organizations like them to continue to pilot ideas, to try ideas and to feel empowered at trying new concepts.

The agreement had been in the works for more than a year, said Vernona Aslim, chief of Housing Operations and Policy in the Army's Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

"Every day we're trying to figure out how to keep homeowners in their homes," said Hayward. "Or, how to help them leave gracefully."

Viewpoint

INFORMATION, OPINIONS AND COMMENTARY

Army Vice Chief Gen. Chiarelli: Programs Will Be Terminated

Sandra Irwin
National Defense Blog

WASHINGTON – A sweeping review of Army weapon systems will most likely result in program terminations, said the Army’s Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Chiarelli.

“You will see some” cancellations in the near future as Army senior officials complete a so-called “portfolio” review of key weapon systems, Chiarelli told reporters Sept. 22 at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

The year-long review started in February and is turning out to be far more comprehensive and complex than anyone had anticipated, said Chiarelli. One of the themes that has emerged from the review is that the Army has to change its budgeting process and the way it acquires equipment.

“In less than a year we’ve been able to identify areas where we can make changes and eliminate redundancies or outdated requirements,” Chiarelli said. The Army, for instance, is wasting money on systems that already exist within the service or in other branches of the military. New weapon requirements often are conceived “in a stovepipe,” Chiarelli said. That approach prevents the Army from taking advantage of technology that is already being purchased elsewhere. On that basis, the Army does not need to keep every program it currently has in the acquisition pipeline, he added.

“You can make just about anything sound really good if you look at it all by itself,” he said. A case in point is precision-guided munitions. The Army is buying PGMs with features that overlap those of other systems, he said. As budgets get tighter, the Army must end these wasteful practices, said Chiarelli.

In a speech in July, Chiarelli specifically cited the Excalibur artillery munition as an example of a weapon that may be nice to have but whose price tag is tough to justify. He noted that Excalibur is the most accurate artillery projectile in the Army’s inventory, but at \$100,000 per round, it may be unaffordable. It can hit targets to within 10 meters from ranges of about 40 kilometers. By comparison, the accuracy of \$600 apiece conventional artillery shells is about 50 meters.

Similar reviews are under way for every category of Army equipment. “Each one has brought to light amazing things, not just what we should buy but how we should buy,” Chiarelli said at the Heritage conference.

It is also likely that the Army will be buying fewer trucks and unmanned aircraft, Chiarelli said. The demand for unmanned aircraft in war zones remains high, but the Army still may reduce future purchases. It will continue to deploy aircraft to meet war commanders’ needs but fewer systems will be left behind in the United States for training, Chiarelli said.

A major determinant in how much equipment the Army will acquire in the future is a possible return to the division-based organization. When the Army was made over six years ago from a division- to a brigade-based structure, equipment demand soared because each brigade had to be outfitted with enough vehicles and aircraft. Now the Army is reconsidering the modular brigade makeup simply because it is too expensive to maintain and in some cases there are not enough resources to supply every brigade, Chiarelli said.

The Army will have 158,000 Humvee trucks by 2012, and it is not clear why such a high number is needed, Chiarelli said. “A lot of that [growth in the Humvee fleet] had to

do with moving to a modular force,” he said. It has now become clear that the modular force is “not as efficient as a division-based force when it comes to equipment,” he explained. Whereas in a division, equipment can be allocated to units based on need, “When you break into brigades, you have to provide the capability to each and every one of the brigades.”

The Army Training and Doctrine Command is expected to offer recommendations over the next six to nine months for possibly doing away or partially modifying the modular brigade structure, Chiarelli said. “I’m not telegraphing any changes we’re going to make,” he said. But after six years of combat experience with the modular brigades, it’s time to “take a look,” said Chiarelli. But he insisted that the changeover to modular brigades six years ago was not a mistake. “The success of modularization should not be questioned by anyone. ... I don’t believe we could have done what we did [in Iraq and Afghanistan] with the division structure.”

Chiarelli also called for change in the way the Army acquires new technology. The current acquisition process makes it difficult to incorporate the latest advances from the commercial industry into Army equipment, he said. He is frustrated by the inability of the Army to grab technology from the open market and make it available to Soldiers quickly, before it becomes obsolete. Chiarelli often has cited the iPhone as an example of how the Army should develop technology. The process, he said, has to be more nimble to accommodate improvements. The upshot may be that the Army will end up buying smaller quantities of systems so it can more easily and less expensively replace them when something better comes along.

Signal Center of Excellence Quality Assurance Office needs your organization’s assistance.

The Signal Center of Excellence is conducting External Evaluation surveys to evaluate how well Signal Soldiers are being trained to perform current critical tasks. The survey consists of questions relating to the critical tasks taught in a Signal School course. It also gives Soldiers an opportunity to provide general comments, respond to optional questions, and specify tasks they believe should be added or deleted from the course. The Signal Center will distribute surveys to the AKO e-mail accounts of NCO’s attending class asking them to provide feedback on how well their Soldiers were trained. The NCO’s will be asked to take the survey pertaining to the MOS of the Soldiers they supervised who have graduated from an Active or Reserve Component Signal School course within the past 6-12 months. We need assistance from all organizations to help promote the value of the survey program, and to talk to Soldiers attending your courses about the importance of completing the surveys that they receive. It is important that Soldiers know that their feedback will help to ensure that training is being conducted on tasks that are critical for mission success, and relevant to the needs of the operational Army.



US Army Signal Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon

Office of the Commander Deputy Commander/Assistant Commandant

Quality Assurance Office

Fort Gordon, Georgia

791-3849

Feedback...

What does leadership mean to you??



“Leadership is not only leading by example, but putting others before you.”

Air Force Staff Sgt. Raquel Gernat
3rd Intelligence Squadron



“Leadership is a lifelong challenge to find the best in you and apply it to helping others find the best in themselves.”

Firefighter John Ryan
Chief of Special Operations



“It means taking care of your Sailors and your people whatever their needs are twenty-four-seven, 365 days a year.”

Petty Officer 3rd Class Kelsey Guarino
Navy Information Operations Command Georgia



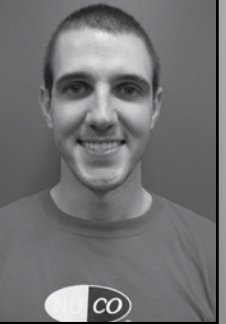
“Leadership means accomplishing a mission and inspiring subordinates to higher efforts.”

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Bachtel
Company D, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion



“It’s knowing the people you lead – their strengths and weaknesses. It’s also striving to lead by example.”

Spc. Stephanie Martin
707th Military Intelligence Battalion



“It’s giving the best of you in hopes of bringing out the best in others.”

Josh Sizemore
Fort Gordon Fitness Center

The Signal

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Gordon Exchange Shoppers Invited to ‘Sound Off’

Martina Bond
AAFES

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is constantly seeking opportunities to improve on the exchange benefit. As part of this effort, the Department of Defense’s oldest and largest exchange service relies on an ongoing Customer Service Index to provide localized, real time snapshots of the job Exchange facilities are doing to improve the value of the support provided to Soldiers and their families.

The survey, which addresses customer service, pricing, sales associate availability, merchandise assortment and many more key issues, is administered at one-fourth of Exchange main stores every quarter.

Fort Gordon shoppers’ opportunity to participate in the 2010 Customer Service Index is coming to the Exchange Oct. 16 through Nov 6. During this time, troops and their families are encouraged to visit the exchange to provide feedback on locally available services. Beyond improving the exchange benefit, shoppers who participate will also receive a coupon worth \$5 off their next purchase at the Exchange.

“We want to hear from as many Fort Gordon shoppers as possible,” said the Exchange’s Store Manager Sheila Miller. “Efforts like the CSI are critical to not only improving the shopping experience, but also bolstering the Morale, Welfare and Recreation dividend the Exchange annually delivers to the community as healthy exchange operations produce greater returns for Army quality of life programs.”

Elections

Absentee ballots due

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

Uncle Sam wants you to remember to vote in the upcoming November election. Many states are having mid-term elections for Congressional seats.

Absentee Voting Week, which began Sept. 27 runs through Oct. 4. Department of Defense Directive 1000.04, Section 5.1.12., designates that an “Absentee Voting Week” be held in August or September of each even-numbered year to encourage military personnel and their family members to exercise their right to vote

During this time frame, military servicemembers and eligible family members are being encouraged to complete and mail their absentee ballots so they can be counted during the November elections.

Also voters may use the electronic absentee ballot form if they did not receive one from their state. They should go to the Federal Voting Assistance Program at www.fvap.gov to fill out the ballot online and then mail it in.

For those who have not registered to vote, there may still be time. Voters can check the website for state voter registration deadlines as well.

Voters who don’t get their ballots in to their states by the deadlines will not have their voices heard. According to FVAP, about seven percent of military absentee ballots cast in the November 2008 were not counted.

The FVAP website has been improved and has new components available online to make absentee voting easier for service members. One feature designed to assist voters from several states including Utah, Montana, Delaware, Idaho, West Virginia and Nevada is the electronic voting support wizard which can help voters receive a write-in ballot, precinct-specific ballot and provide jurisdiction-specific voting and ballot return instructions through the internet.

While not all states have this feature, all voters will have access to write-in ballots.

Soldiers encouraged to file absentee ballots soon

Master Sgt. Christina Steiner
U.S. Army
Human Resources Command

FORT KNOX, Ky. -- This week absentee-voter week begins, when the Army and Department of Defense encourage absentee voters to mail their ballots to their respective states.

National Absentee-Ballot Awareness Week runs this year Sept. 27 through Oct. 4.

If voters have not yet received their states’ absentee ballots, they can complete the federal write-in absentee ballot so it can arrive in time to be counted, said Lt. Col Michael Bell, chief of Soldier Programs Branch at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command.

Bell said each state has different laws that govern the execution of elections, but that all states must accept the federal absentee ballot. He also said each Army installation has voting assistance officers available to help Soldiers navigate the sometimes difficult process of filing to vote absentee. “Efforts have been ongoing

since the spring to ensure we have VAOs trained and they have the forms necessary to assist their Soldiers,” he said. “VAOs should have the 2010 voting guide from the Federal Voting Assistant Program which has extensive information about each state’s absentee mailing deadlines.”

Bell said eligible voters should contact their unit VAO

to ensure they know when their ballots must be received by their states.

All Army units have voting assistant officers. In fact, there are more than 67,000 such officers across the Army. Soldiers can contact their inspector general’s office for more information or visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website www.fvap.gov/.



U.S. Army

Soldiers overseas register to vote during a unit voting assistance drive.

Briefs

Debt notices

Pvt. Brandon K. Simmons : All services under Pvt. Brandon K. Simmons should be put on hold. Simmons died August 23. All those with debt to be collected should contact 1st Lt. Sharonda Smith at 267-6084 or e-mail sharonda.smith1@us.army.mil.

Sgt. 1st Class Edgar N. Roberts Jr. : All services under Sgt. 1st Class Edgar N. Roberts Jr. should be put on hold. Roberts died August 17. All those with debt to be collected should contact Warrant Officer Anthony M. Sebek at (508) 361-0811 or (404) 291-5536.

Sgt. John F. Burner, III: All services under Sgt. John H. Burner, III should be put on hold. Burner died Sept. 16. All those with debt to be collected should contact Capt. Christina Aleman at (270) 719-0312.

Radio Family Reunion

WKSP 96.3 Kiss FM Radio is hosting a Kiss Family Union 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Oct. 2 at the Augusta Exchange Club Fairgrounds. There will be local and national R & B, blues and gospel artists. For more information visit kissfamilyreunion.com.

West Point Picnic

The West Point Society of Aiken/Augusta will sponsor a barbeque from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 3 at 8138 Sir Lancelot Ct., Evans, Ga., 30809 to honor USMA Class of 2010 graduates attending school at Fort Gordon. Col. (Ret.) James Schroeder and wife will host the event. All USMA graduates in the area are invited to come and welcome the Class of 2010 graduates. For more information and RSVP, contact Schroeder at 860-6871 or e-mail sharonschoeder@comcast.net.

Hispanic Festival

The 18th Festival Hispano is scheduled 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Oct. 9 and 12 to 6 p.m. Oct. 10 at the Augusta Common downtown. The event is scheduled to have latin bands, folklorical groups, authentic food stands from several countries, arts and crafts. Active Military ID card holders enter free.

Antiques Road Show

The Fort Gordon Spouses' and Civilians' Club, will be hosting its Antiques Appraisal Road Show Oct.13, with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and the appraisal program starting at noon at the Gordon Club. Appraiser will be Martha Lyons. Lunch is pay-as-you-go and the program is free. Please RSVP no later than Oct. 11 to Ginny Terry at 803-279-8998. Bring an item to be appraised!

Fall Flea Market

Fort Gordon is scheduled to have various vendors during the Fall Flea Market 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 16 on Barton Field. For more information, call 364-8702 or 513-7868.

Fort Gordon and Augusta, Ga., region area code is (706).

BOSS Car, Truck, Bike Show

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is scheduled to have an auto show Oct. 16 on Rice Road, between Barnes and Brainard avenues. Preregistration \$15 before Oct. 8, \$20 day of event. Trophies will be awarded for first, second, third place and Best of Show in categories of Off-Road, bikes, trucks, imports, domestics, street rods and classics. For more information, call 791-3025.

IG website link

A new icon on the Signal Center Internet website provides instant access to an online form to request assistance from the Fort Gordon Inspector General's office. Requests are automatically forwarded to IG representative for action. The Inspector General handles information about Army systems, processes, and procedures, interpretation of contradictory regulatory guidance, violations of Law/Regulation/Policy, mismanagement, unethical behavior, and any other topic of concern. To speak to an IG representative in person, visit building 33800 on Rice Road, or for more information, call 791-4565.

I.D. Card Appts.

Save Time - Make an Appointment - Fort Gordon Darling Hall, Room 161 - For Appointment Information Call 791-1930 - Walk-ins are Welcome.

Blood Drive

Red to Green is the annual program sponsored by the Fort Gordon Federal Credit Union and the Kendrick Memorial Blood Center. For each pint of blood donated on specified dates, the credit union will donate \$5 to the Christmas House Charity. Confirmed Red to Green drives are Oct. 5 at the NSA HQ; and Oct. 12, 19, and 26 with the 15th Signal Brigade, held at the blood donor center. For more information, call 787-3234 or visit www.militaryblood.dod.mil.

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

The Fort Gordon Sergeant Audie Murphy Club meets at noon the first Wednesday of each month at the Chef Redd's inside Signal Towers. All Sgt. Audie Murphy and Sergeant. Morales club members, command sergeants major, sergeants major are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. For more information, contact your unit first sergeant or Sgt. 1st Class Shirlene C. Olson at 799-5230.

Greek Festival

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is celebrating our U.S. Armed Forces with a free Military Appreciation Day during the 21st Annual Greek Festival Oct. 9 and 10 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. There will be rides and a playground for children. For more information, call 724-1087.

Golf for Soldiers

Active duty servicemembers and their families are invited to Gordon Lakes Golf Club every Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon for free instruction and use of the driving range. All skill levels are welcome. For more information, call the clubhouse at 791-2433.

Smoking cessation

The Health and Wellness Center will be conducting new one-hour lunchtime Tobacco Cessation classes in addition to the four-hour classes offered. New four week classes will begin the first Tuesday of every month. Contact Lynn Brooks at the Fort Gordon Health and Wellness Center at 787-6756 to register.

Public Affairs Representatives

Interested in telling your unit's story, writing and taking photographs of Soldiers in action and their off-duty community activities. Become a unit public affairs representative IAW ST 45-07-01. Contact Wilson A. Rivera at 791-7069, the Public Affairs Office at 791-7003, or e-mail wilson.a.rivera@conus.army.mil.

Submissions

Write-ups must be in Time-Date-Place format, short 100-words or fewer briefs about an event and a point of contact. E-mail Bonnie Heater at bonnie.heater@CONUS.army.mil or drop items off at Room 215, Nelson Hall.

‘No servant can serve two masters’

**Chaplain (Capt.)
Damian Ilkaba**

Garrison Command

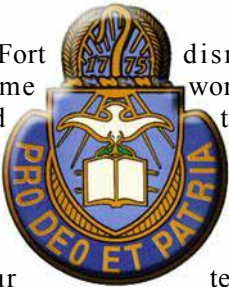
Decisions! We make decisions all day, every day. Some are routine- what clothes will I wear today? Other decisions that affect our future may take days or weeks of deliberation to decide. It may be that our personality is such that we postpone making a decision until the last minute. That’s okay. Other make impromptu, quick, snap decisions. In either case, our decisions can continue to lead us on the path to God or, out of self-interest, lead us to worship a destructive deity, mammon.

Our world is filled with examples of false worship. Consider the abuse of economic power, money scams, mismanagement of stock portfolios, and manipulation of company assets that have led many honest investors to lose their savings. The master in the gospel I have chosen believed that the steward would care for his properties honorably. When he found out this was not the case he dismissed the dishonest steward.

So it’s with us in our chaplaincy or in the military service. I remember vividly when we were about to be deployed to Afghanistan a cou-

ple of years ago at Fort Campbell, Ky. Some Soldiers approached me to help them not to be deployed. I asked them, do you still remember when you raised up your right hand and took the oath of allegiance. They answered yes. That was the day you made the decision to serve your country. If we make decisions out of self-interest, we unwittingly adore the false deity, mammon, becoming children of the world.

We need to heed the words “No servant can serve two masters”. Children of the world may find themselves



dismissed from the world of light. But any time we have natural disasters like tornados, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and hurricanes, we tend to remember the Creator often.

As soon as our lives are okay, we begin to think that everything lies in our own power.

I still affirm in this article that we remember God, mostly in our problems. We know whom to serve.

So, what tools do we bring to our decision making that help direct us toward life and light?

First Muslim chaplain joins National Guard

**Air Force Tech. Sgt.
Johnathon Orrell**

Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va., -- The Army National Guard will get its first Muslim chaplain in December 2011.

First Lt. Rafael Lantigua of the Texas National Guard is an ecclesiastically endorsed, fully ordained minister, who is finishing the few remaining educational classes required by the Armed Services Chaplain Board.

“I am humbled for this opportunity to be a role model for other members of my faith throughout the military,” he said.

As he was growing up, Lantigua was not a Muslim. He decided to convert when he was a teenager, and he attributes that decision to the diversity of his background.

His mother is an African-

American, who is Baptist, and his father is from the Dominican Republic and is Roman Catholic.

After his parents divorced his mother remarried a Buddhist. “Growing up in such diversity caused me to explore my options,” Lantigua said.

It was with that diversity in his life that enabled him to embrace the Muslim faith before he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He has continued to be open about his religious beliefs in the hope that he can break down the stigmatism surrounding Muslims since Sept. 11, 2001.

“I hope that I will be able to encourage more service members of my faith to open up about their religious beliefs, especially with how we are viewed politically,” Lantigua said. “I hope to show my fellow military members that Muslims are not bad people and that we



Sgt. Darron Salzer

1st Lt. Rafael Lantigua, right, of the Texas National Guard shakes hands with Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, during a Ramadan dinner recently held in Washington, D.C.

are not all radical Muslim terrorists.”

Although it took longer for the Guard to get its first Muslim chaplain, Lantigua said the Guard is more than ready for this move.

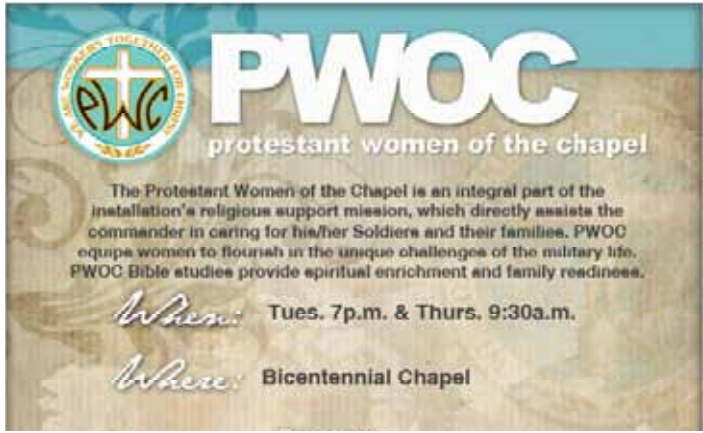
“The Guard is ripe for this to take place,” he said. “Muslims have been with us since the formation of this great country. There were Muslims fighting with us during the Revolutionary War.”

Worship location changes

Several Fort Gordon worship services will temporarily change locations. The Installation Chaplains’ Office received grants from the office of the Chief of Chaplains, and with the generosity of the Directorate of Public Works, Barnes Avenue Chapel and Bicentennial Chapel will undergo scheduled renovations. These renovations include new carpeting and flooring, painting, new pews, new altar furniture, and new digital grand pianos.

The first phase of these renovations begins at Barnes Avenue Friendship chapel, beginning the first week of October. The 11 a.m. Oct. 10 service at the Chapel will move to the Azalea Room at the Courtyard. The 9:30 a.m. contemporary service will move to the Religious Support Office, Building 29601, on Barnes Avenue. The Latter Day Saints service, 1:30 p.m. Sundays, will temporarily move to Bicentennial Chapel, Building 28414, on Brainard Avenue.

The second phase renovation of Bicentennial Chapel, will begin at a later date to be announced. Changes in service times and locations will be announced periodically.



Chapel Call

- Collective Protestant Services**
- Sunday Worship**
- 9:00 a.m. – Liturgical Service, Bicentennial Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. – Contemporary Worship Service, Friendship Chapel
- 10:30 a.m. – Eisenhower Army Medical Center Chapel
- 12:00 a.m. – Faith Gospel Service, Good Shepherd Chapel
- 11:00 a.m. – Bicentennial Chapel, Bldg 28414-(791-3959)
- 11:00 a.m. – Friendship Chapel, Bldg 25603-(791-2056)
- Catholic Services-Bldg 29608-(791-2945)
- Daily, Mon – Fri, 11:45 a.m., EAMC Chapel
- Mon, Wed, Thurs, 11:30 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel
- Saturday, 3:30 p.m., Reconciliation, Good Shepherd Chapel
- Saturday, 5:00 p.m., Vigil Mass, Good Shepherd
- Sunday Masses**
- 8:30 and 1000 a.m., Good Shepherd Chapel
- 11:45 a.m., EAMC Chapel (787-6667)
- Jewish Activities**
- Holy Day, Sabbath and Daily. Friday Bible Study @ Ikes Café, 1200noon
- Services available off post-Mr. Shoenholz, 706-787-1353
- Islamic Services**
- Jumah (Friday) Prayer Services, Islamic Activities Center
- For Information , 706-772-4303.
- Wiccan/Pagan - 1400, Sun, RSO-706-868-8781
- Denominational Services**
- LDS Service – Sunday 1:30 p.m., Friendship Chapel
- LDS Representative -- 706-799-9651
- LDS Inst/Fellowship-Saturday, 1300-1700 at Rel Support Ofc.
- Religious Education - Children & Youth Classes
- Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Protestant Sunday School, Religious Ed Ctr
- Youth Groups and Other RE Programs, Mr. Dillard – 706-791-4703
- Adult Bible Studies
- Sunday 9:30 a.m., Protestant Adult Studies, Religious Ed Ctr
- Sunday 11:30 a.m., Catholic “God and Coffee”, Family Life Ctr
- Sunday 1130, RCIA at Rel Support Office, 706-791-4703
- Tuesday Noon, EAMC Bible Study, Din Facility, 3rd floor
- Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Prot Women of Chapel,
- Thursday, 9:30 am @ BCC - POC: 630-432-3064
- Tuesday 7:00 p.m., Little Rock Study, Good Shepherd Chapel
- Wednesday 11:30 a.m., Post-wide Bible Study, Bicentennial
- Wednesday 7:30 p.m., Adult Bible Study, Friendship Chapel
- Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Faith Gospel Svc at Religious Education Center
- Tuesday 1200 a.m., 513th at Motor Pool Conf Rm
- Tuesday 1200 a.m., 513th MI GP Conf Rm, Bldg 21719
- Military Council of Catholic Women, GSC, call 791-4703 for Info
- Chaplain Family Life Center Bldg 38804, Academic Dr - 791-7421
- Religious Education Center, Bldg 39709, 39th St – 791-4703
- Religious Support Office, (RSO) Bldg 29601, Barnes Ave – 791-5653

\$6.8 million technology training center opens

Col. Jeffrey J. Lepak

Signal Center of Excellence, Deputy Assistant Commandant-USAR Advisor

SACRAMENTO, Calif. - Sept. 10, High Tech Regional Training Site-Maintenance located at the BT Collins U.S. Army Reserve Center Sacramento, Calif., celebrated the opening of a \$6.8 million dollar new technical training center to their existing complex. The training center offers more classroom space, voice and data drops, a secure room and a computer lab. Maj. Gen. John P. McLaren, 80th Training Command (TASS) commander hosted the ribbon cutting. Guests included congressional representatives U.S. Rep. Doris O. Matsui, and U.S. Rep. Dan Lungren, and Command Sgt. Maj. Royd Patterson, 63rd Regional Support Command, command sergeant major. The High Tech Training Center increased their MOS-T training capability in radio operations and maintenance, satellite operations and maintenance, and Signal support skills.

“The men and women who serve in our military deserve nothing but the best training and equipment,” said Matsui. “The new BT Collins High Tech Training Center is a major step forward in ensuring our Soldiers get the training they need to keep critical lines of communication open to leaders in and out of the field. I am pleased to have helped secure almost \$7 million in federal funding to open this facility and look forward to celebrating this important occasion.”

The High Tech Center is one of the Army Reserve’s Signal training facilities, which is part of the Army Signal Regiment’s training enterprise.



IT support desk opens

The U.S. Army Signal Network Enterprise Center at Fort Gordon is scheduled to transition Oct. 18 to the Army Enterprise Service Desk.

The AESD is an information technology service desk staff of technical personnel who are available 24 hours, 7 days a week, yearly to provide IT support to the Fort Gordon customers. It is your single point of contact for IT service requests. Therefore, Fort Gordon network users are no longer required to call their organization Information Assurance Security Officers Information Management Officers to resolve technical problems; only one call to the AESD is required.

On Oct. 18, Fort Gordon users will call 791-5493 or the toll free number, 1-866-335-2769, to submit trouble tickets for assistance with IT problems to include computer, network, telephone, video-teleconferencing, information assurance, etc. Labels with the AESD phone number are available at www.gordon.army.mil/nec/aesd/labels.docx.

AKO/DKO calls will be routed to the AKO/DKO service desk and AESD calls will be routed to an AESD technical representative who will answer your phone call and create an ITSM-Remedy incident, work order.

If your request for assistance can be mitigated by the AESD representative over the phone at the time of your call, your work order/incident will be closed upon completion of service.

If your work order/incident cannot be mitigated by the AESD representative, your work order/incident will be routed to the NEC-Fort Gordon Customer Service Center for mitigation.

It is recommended that you keep track of your work order/incident report number until your work order/incident has been resolved.

CYSS offers after-school activity trends

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

When Evelyn Guzman tells people about middle and high school after-school programs at the Child, Youth and School Services gym, she often receives a shocked expression.

“They think of CYSS as child care, but it’s more than child care,” said Guzman, facility director.

Eventually, the middle and high school services will be located in their own building, but until then, they are housed in the gym with the services for children in first through fifth grades.

The gym provides a safe, supervised place for middle and high school teens to come after school.

Guzman said there is free transportation available from area schools to the on-post center. The highest concentration of free transportation users attend Grovetown Middle School and Grovetown High School.

“We are going to have to get a second bus,” said Guzman. The center provides its after-school middle and high school teens with academic, social and recreational programs.

Through the Army’s partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, there are leadership programs such as the Torch Club and Keystone Club. These programs “empower youth to become community leaders,” according to a brochure. These clubs meet

once a month. In addition, there is homework help available for teens. The center has a computer lab with 15 computers. Teens can use those computers to access an online tutoring program. The on-site tutor position is vacant, but Guzman said an individual with a bachelor or associate degree will be hired to work one-on-one tutoring students. Besides the computer lab, there are many other electronics and gaming systems such as Playstation 2 and 3, Wii, and Xbox 360 for teens to relax after school. There are two pool tables, four televisions and lots of movies. Special events are held on a regular basis for teens. A dance is coming up at the end of October, and there are often field trips. There is also a basketball team which has played community teams as well as teams from other installations. Guzman said they started triple play basketball league and were the first garrison to have a team. After playing teams from the Family Y, Guzman said they contacted Fort Stewart and Fort Benning, Ga., about putting teams together to play. The best part about the program is that everything except for special camps is free, said Guzman. The center is open from 3 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 3 to 10 p.m. Friday and 1 to 10 p.m. Saturday, and teen programs are open to sixth through 12th graders.

IKE’s HealthNET

Nuclear Medicine – a view from the inside

Kirk T. Mitchell
DDEAMC Nuclear Medicine Technologist

When walking down the corridor of the second floor of Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, nestled between cardiology and family medicine there are bright yellow signs looming on one side of the hall. The signs have a red radioactive symbol prominently displayed on the yellow background with the words “radioactive material” underneath. Welcome to nuclear medicine.

Nuclear medicine has been around in some form or another since 1896, when Henri Becquerel discovered mysterious “rays” from uranium. In 1904, a patient was treated with Radium for their Thyroid disease. In 1946, an “atomic cocktail” with Iodine-131 was first used to treat a patient with thyroid cancer. In the 1950’s we began to take pictures of our radio-tracers, first of the blood pool of the heart and soon after the imaging of thyroid gland was possible. Today, we can image

most organ systems in the body. Back in the day for one test a live chicken was needed. The chicken was injected with a radiopharmaceutical and then sacrificed for its liver. The liver was cooked and a patient would eat the radioactive liver. Afterward, a crude imaging device would be used to image the patient’s stomach over a two hour time span to see how well the contents were emptying.

Over time, the live chicken was replaced by injecting the radiopharmaceutical into an egg and then cooking the egg. Machines have improved drastically with the type of images that are produced. Computers are a large part of this improvement and have become a big part of nuclear medicine. With computers and sophisticated programs, 3-D imaging and other advanced restructuring of data images are now possible. An example of advanced imaging available is of the heart pumping blood through the body.

Nuclear medicine is part of the radiology department. However, nuclear medicine is quite unique from how images/pictures of patients are acquired. With traditional X-ray, a machine that produces X-rays is positioned in front of a patient and a cassette with

film behind the patient. The X-ray is turned on and the radiation that passes through the patient leaves an impression or photo on the film. With nuclear medicine, the patient becomes the radioactive source and our gamma camera simply records or detects where the radiation is inside the patient.

At DDEAMC there are state of the art camera systems. The latest in positron emission tomography scanners is located here. This highly technical camera and an injection allows for several types of cancers to be detected. The machine is a hybrid with a computerized axial tomography scan attached to the PET scanner. With these two machines cancer cells can be detected before the physical changes occur. The images can also indicate if the cancer is responding to treatment.


Soon another advanced imaging camera called a SPECT/CT will be installed at DDEAMC. This camera can better locate tumors and utilizes additional computer program filters to enable the nuclear physician to have even better and more accurate data to interpret.

With this tool the nuclear medicine image and data will be combined with the CAT scan, without the patient mov-

ing between images. The ability to perform both image sets with the patient in a fixed position will increase the sensitivity of the study. This camera will utilize the strengths of both therapeutic methods, nuclear medicine and CAT scans.

An estimated 16 million nuclear medicine procedures are done each year in the United States. Unlike other tests and procedures, nuclear medicine provides information on practically every organ system in the body - from tear ducts to bones. Nuclear medicine procedures are very safe and are a vital, noninvasive tool to determine what is going on inside a patient.

DDEAMC strives to have the most up to date equipment available in order to serve our patients. The nuclear medicine clinic is available to all DoD beneficiaries, regardless of whether or not their primary care doctor is at DDEAMC or in the community. There are no appointments or inpatient co-payments for eligible beneficiaries using DDEAMC specialty clinics. Referral access for an appointment may be made through DDEAMC’s specialty care coordination office, (877) 667-5828 or local 706-787-0297.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS LUNCH & LEARNS

DOOR PRIZES!

When: October 13, 2010
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Where: Ike's Café,
Eisenhower, 3rd floor

When: October 20, 2010
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Where: Gordon Club

Keynotes from a
Breast Cancer Survivor

Sponsored and Organized
By Eisenhower Preventive Medicine
Health & Wellness Center
29605 Barnes Ave
(706) 787-6756

DDEAMC clinic to host chili cookoff


National Physical Therapy Month occurs in October and represents rehabilitation professionals giving back to the community. It is a celebration of the tremendous way rehabilitation changes lives.

Do you sit a lot at your work? You may have common weaknesses or postural errors, which can be reversed. These weaknesses and postural errors

can result in pain, which can increase over time. With specific exercises to correct imbalances and modify postures, these pains can be reduced or prevented.

We change people’s lives every day in physical therapy whether that’s decreasing pain, or improving movement ability, or improving strength.

The DDEAMC Physical



Therapy Clinic is hosting a Chili Cookoff from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 14 in the DDEAMC dining facility. So come by the DDEAMC Physical Therapy Clinic on the first floor during October to pick up an posture exercise roster or posture brochure. Learn something to change your life.

October Health Observances

- Depression Education
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Dental Hygiene Month
- Healthy Lung Month
- Disability Employment Awareness Month

Upcoming Events

- Nuclear Medicine Week Oct. 3-9
- Case Management Week Oct. 10-16
- Physical Therapy Month Oct. 1-29
- Chili Cook off – Oct. 14th, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in Ike’s Café, EAMC 3rd floor
- For more information, contact Maj. Stephen W. Seward, 787-0184, 787-5373, or 787-7347.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Lunch & Learn**
- Oct. 13, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Ike’s Café, DDEAMC
- Oct. 20, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Gordon Club

For comments, questions or article suggestions, send e-mails to:
ikeshealthnet@amedd.army.mil

Community

Disability Awareness Month

EFMP reaches out to families, provide resources, information

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

October is Disability Awareness Month, and there are several events planned at Fort Gordon to highlight the month.

“The theme this year is ‘Talent has no boundaries,’” said Pamela Rachal, Fort Gordon’s Exceptional Family Member Program manager.

One of the goals of EFMP is to help families by providing them with the resources and information they need to care for their loved one who has a disability.

Events this month including “Disability Awareness: No Boundaries” at 10 a.m., Oct. 12, Sifting through Your Parental Rights at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 19 and Tips for Dealing with Autism at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 21. All of the programs will be held at the Family Outreach Center, Building 33512.

Although autism and its related disorders are becoming more prevalent in society, Rachal said people still don’t know how to relate well to children who have it.

Rachal said they would like to partner with the school system to provide more training to teachers, paraprofessionals and bus drivers on working with children with autism.

“The staff is not trained to deal with autistic behavior and the challenges of ADHD,” said Rachal.

Rachal said the seminar on sifting through parental rights is another important one.

The presenting group for the seminar is Parent to Parent of Georgia, a resource Rachal said provides a lot of other valuable information. The organization has a database at www.p2pga.com with more than 5,100 resources available to parents of children with disabilities. Parent to Parent of Georgia’s website also has a “roadmap” with advice for parents in navigating Georgia’s disability, health and education systems.

Rachal said important resources for Army families include respite care and mental health services.

“Sometimes, families need that extra break” which they can get through the respite care, she said.

“The Exceptional Family Member Program is a mandatory enrollment program that works with other military and civilian agencies to provide comprehensive and coordinated community support, housing, educational, medical, and personnel services to families with special needs. Soldiers on active duty enroll in the program when they have a family member with a physical, emotional, developmental, or intellectual disorder requiring specialized services so their needs can be considered in the military personnel assignment process,” according to Army One Source, www.mymilitaryonesource.com.

Around Town

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

On the first Friday of each month, Broad Street and some of its adjacent side streets are blocked off to become the site of a large cultural gathering called First Friday.

“It’s a great opportunity to see a wide variety of things you wouldn’t normally expect to see in downtown Augusta,” said Leonard Zimmerman, a visual artist who goes by the name of Porkchop and is a frequent First Friday attendee. “For me personally, there are usually always several art exhibits opening in the galleries downtown or in the coffee shops.”

First Friday begins as the typical workweek comes to a close at 5 p.m. Friday.

Local crafters and vendors set up booths along the street.

One of the featured artists at this week’s event is Barbara Whetstone Fox whose artwork is at Gallery on the Row at 1016 Broad St. The artists of Framework and Tire City Pottery always have new pieces on display at their studio at the corner of 10th and Ellis Streets.

Zimmerman said he also likes the atypical entertainment found on the streets during First Friday.

“There’s usually always great bands playing, but you can also see the skateboarders,” he said. “There’s also the flamethrowers, and it’s cool to see the roller derby girls out there.”

The flamethrowers and fire dancers are part of the group Pyroteque, who perform from 8 to 10 p.m. on the corner of 11th and Broad streets. Members of Soul City Sirens will show off their roller derby skills and a car show is scheduled from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Augusta Common.

The band, Dirty Girl and the Secrets, will perform at Le Chat Noir at the corner of Eighth and Ellis streets, at 7:30 p.m, and the comedy improv group, Schrodinger’s Cat is set to take the stage at 8 p.m.

Yard sale

Post open gates to host community-wide sale event

Charmain Z. Brackett
Correspondent

More than 40 residents have signed up for Saturday’s community wide yard sale, and Kelly Barchanowicz expects more.

“I always get people the day before who call and say ‘Can I still sign up?’” said Barchanowicz, the Balfour Beatty Communities LifeWorks coordinator.

The community wide yard sale will be from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday in all Balfour Beatty Communities on post. Civilians from off-post are allowed to attend the event so Barchanowicz expects it to be a success if the weather is as good as it is predicted to be.

Yard sales are a necessary function in the housing areas, she said.

“It’s my most questioned event. When people arrive, they always ask, ‘Will you have a yard sale?’” she said. “The military is a different breed. We collect a lot of stuff from our moves,

but when we PCS, there are weight restrictions. We have to be prepared not to exceed the limit.”

October is a busy month for Balfour Beatty Communities. Typically, there are seven events planned a month, but October has 10.

Throughout the month of October, Balfour Beatty Communities will be partnering with the Golden Harvest Food Bank and the It’s Spooky to Be Hungry Food Drive. Residents can drop off non-perishable food items at the community center. Also, someone from Balfour Beatty will be picking up food items in the housing areas from 8 a.m. to noon Oct. 23.

“We will be going door-to-door,” she said. “They can leave canned food on their doorstep.”

One additional special event for the month is the International Walk to School event on Wednesday, Oct. 6.

Children are encouraged to walk, ride a bicycle, skate or ride a skateboard to school.

“It promotes a healthy lifestyle as well as provides environmental awareness to get to school without using a motorized vehicle.

Youngsters hook 535 fish during Kids’ Fishing Derby, Shooting Day

Fred Perry
Outdoor Recreation, Manager

Fort Gordon celebrated National Hunting and Fishing Day Sept. 25 with kids’ fishing and shooting events.

About 200 kids, age 3-15 years old, participated in the post’s fishing derby held from 8 a.m. to noon at Fort Gordon’s Claypit Lakes. Five hundred and thirty fish were weighed at 11 a.m. Thirty-two door prizes (rods and reels and tackle boxes) were given out to participants. T-shirts and a lunch were also provided.

This year’s fishing derby winners in the 5 years old and under category were Sebastian Melendez, taking first place with a catch of 6 pounds 5 ounces.; Bella Deakin earned second place with fish weighing 4 pounds 10 ounces.; and Brice Rogers and Jackson Evans tied for third place with a catch of 4 pounds 1 ounce.

In the 6 to 8 year category, Montana Moore earned first place with a total catch of 13 pounds and 14 ounces, Derrick Melendez, took second place after catching 9 pounds and 13 ounces of fish, and Jameson Cooper placed with third with a catch of 8 pounds 1 ounce.

Daquan Doggett took first place in the 9-12 year category with a total catch of 16 pounds 8 ounces. Dawn Haywood caught 11 pounds and 5 ounces of fish and took second place while Michael Thigpen placed third with a catch of 5 pounds.

In the 13-15 year category, Antonio Doggett earned first place after catching 10 pounds 10 ounces of fish. Jordan Lambert took second place with a total catch of 8 pounds 4 ounces and R. J. Benning placed third with a combined catch of 6 pounds and 2 ounces.

In the afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m. about 75 youngsters received instruction in archery, rifle firing, and skeet and trap shooting at Range 14. The Fort Gordon Fish and Wildlife office set up a wildlife exhibit and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources put up a laser shot hunting simulator.

Sponsors for this year’s event were Augusta Coca Cola, Executive Partners Realtors, Central Michigan University, Armed Services Blood Program, Military Sporting Goods Store.com, Washington Road Tire and Auto, Ghann’s Crickets, Fort Gordon Fish and Wildlife and Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Exercise of the week

‘Extend to the left’



Hammer Crunches

STARTING POSITION: Start at a supine position on the floor. Dumbbells behind your head; shoulder-width apart.

EXECUTION: Crunch up, bring one dumbbell across your body (like swinging a hammer). Touch dumbbell on opposite side of your body. Return to starting position. Repeat on the other side. The further up you move the dumbbell closest to your armpit the more efficient the workout. Jose Sizemore, a NuCo personal trainer at Fort Gordon Fitness Center, recommends 15 repetitions per side, two sets. Exercise works the oblique and abdominal muscles. To see a demonstration of this exercise go to ExRx.net and for more exercise tips, call 791- 2647.



IMPACT AID

Impact Aid Forms are coming home with your children/youth on the following dates:

Albemarle County
Week of Oct. 19 - sent home
DEADLINE FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL: Nov. 12.

Columbia County
Week of Oct, 4 - sent home
DEADLINE FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL: Oct. 18

Richmond County
Week of Oct. 4 - sent home
DEADLINE FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL: Oct. 5

All schools will continue to accept cards until ALL are turned in..it is imperative that a card is turned in for every child!

If you are **ACTIVE DUTY, CONTRACTOR, or CIVILIAN** and work on Fort Gordon, Fort Stewart, Fort Jackson, the Augusta Housing Authority, U.S. Courthouse, V.A. Hospital, Army Reserve Center (Wrightsboro Rd), Savannah River Site, Thurmond Dam/Reservoir, or any other **FEDERAL property.....**
PLEASE ENSURE YOU COMPLETE AND RETURN THESE FORMS!!!

Fort Bliss draws top Army officials during FFID exercise

Lt. Col. Deanna Bague
Fort Bliss Public Affairs

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. -- Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., Army chief of staff, and Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of U.S. Army Materiel Command and the Army’s first female four star general, were among the observers here, Sept. 8, during a demonstration of Capability Package 11-12 systems conducted by the Army’s Future Force Integration Directorate located at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Soldiers from 5th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Army Evaluation Task Force, are evaluating equipment that includes tactical and urban unattended ground sensors, the unmanned aerial system, the small unmanned ground vehicle and the network integration kit.

“Soldiers are the most experienced operators on these pieces of equipment,” said Maj. Michael Tremblay, the executive officer for 2nd Infantry Battalion, 5-1 AD. “Senior level

leaders like to come down and hear [feedback] from the Soldier who is operating that piece of equipment.”

Officials said the demonstration involved a time sensitive target raid scenario in which the Soldiers employed their CP 11-12 systems in support of their raid on the objective. The UAS was launched to observe the objective. Subsequently, dismounted Soldiers entered and moved through a building using a combination of the SUG-V and the U-UGS.

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Ramsay of Scout Platoon Headquarters Company, 2nd Infantry Battalion, said the SUG-V pushed ahead of the elements, searched the rooms and identified any possible threats.

“The SUG-V is probably the best [equipment] of the CP 11 that we have,” said Ramsay. “[It] gives us a better stand-off to actually see what’s coming up ahead rather than put actual Soldiers up in the front and be surprised. The SUG-V actually does save lives.”

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Vane,

deputy commanding general, Futures and director, Army Capabilities Integration Center, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, said through the course of nine years, the Army has done a fantastic job of transforming itself in its operational environment.

Soldiers have effectively adapted their tactics, techniques and procedures in the face of adversaries and irregular warfare. Furthermore, said Vane, Soldiers have refined their utilization of equipment in the Army.

“The Army has put an unbelievable number of rapidly equipped capabilities into the hands of our Soldiers at the edge,” said Vane.

What is taking place at Fort Bliss, said Vane, is the replication of equipment, TTPs and leadership activities that will be put into an Infantry Brigade Combat Team to take into the theater of operations.

“The network is the centerpiece of this - equipment-wise,” said Vane. “The Soldier is of course the centerpiece of



Lt. Col. Deanna Bague
Soldiers from 5th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Army Evaluation Task Force, watch as Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Army chief of staff, operates the remote control to the small unmanned ground vehicle at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

it from a perspective of holistic operations. We’re replicating that IBCT - or at least a large part of the equipment in that IBCT - with the [Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles] that move the squad into a position of

advantage, with a network that allows all the members inside that platoon and that company to talk to each other - to talk to headquarters, to take photos - push them up the network.”

“To be able to stand and stare

with unmanned aerial systems - these are all the capabilities we’re expecting to be able to give us an advantage and give that squad and that platoon advantage in that battlefield of tomorrow.”

Building work force top challenge for Cyber Command

C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- Building the cyber force is the biggest challenge for the new U.S. Cyber Command, the agency’s commander told congress.

The new U.S. Cyber Command, which is charged with protecting Department of Defense computer networks, is now approaching full operational capability at Fort Meade, Md., said Gen. Keith B. Alexander, commander, U.S. Cyber Command and director of the National Security Agency Sept. 23 before the House Armed Services Committee.

Now, he said, he concerns himself with generating a work force for the command -- the tech

savvy personnel who will help defend the military’s networks.

“The biggest challenge we currently face is generating the people we need to do this mission,” he said. “I am optimistic we will get the force we need. We are pushing on the services to go faster to bring those forces in. My greatest concern is moving fast enough to provide a capability to defend our networks in time were a crisis to occur. We see that as our No. 1 mission -- be ready.”

When developing that force, the general emphasized the importance of single standards for training -- whether servicemembers and personnel are taught at a single school or at multiple schools.

“So that you know, our

combatant commanders know, whether they get a Soldier, Marine, Airman, or Sailor, that the person is trained to a standard and can accomplish the mission expected of them,” he told lawmakers.

The security threat to DOD networks today involves as many as 250,000 “probes and scans” an hour, the general said. It’s those types of threats that the U.S. Cyber Command needs to keep abreast of, he said, to keep networks and the command and control systems that run on them operational.

“Our services and combatant commands depend on a command and control system, a computer system that has the integrity and reliability to operate in combat,” he said. “We

have the mission to ensure that happens.”

When asked by members of the committee what congress can provide to ensure success of U.S. Cyber Command, Alexander said that continued support was important. Also, he said, is authority to conduct its mission. That is, clear policies on what the command is allowed to do, and where they are allowed to do it, both defensively and offensively.

The White House, he said, is leading discussions on what kinds of authorities are going to be needed amongst the various agencies involved in defending the network from threats. That team includes the Defense Department and U.S. Cyber Command.

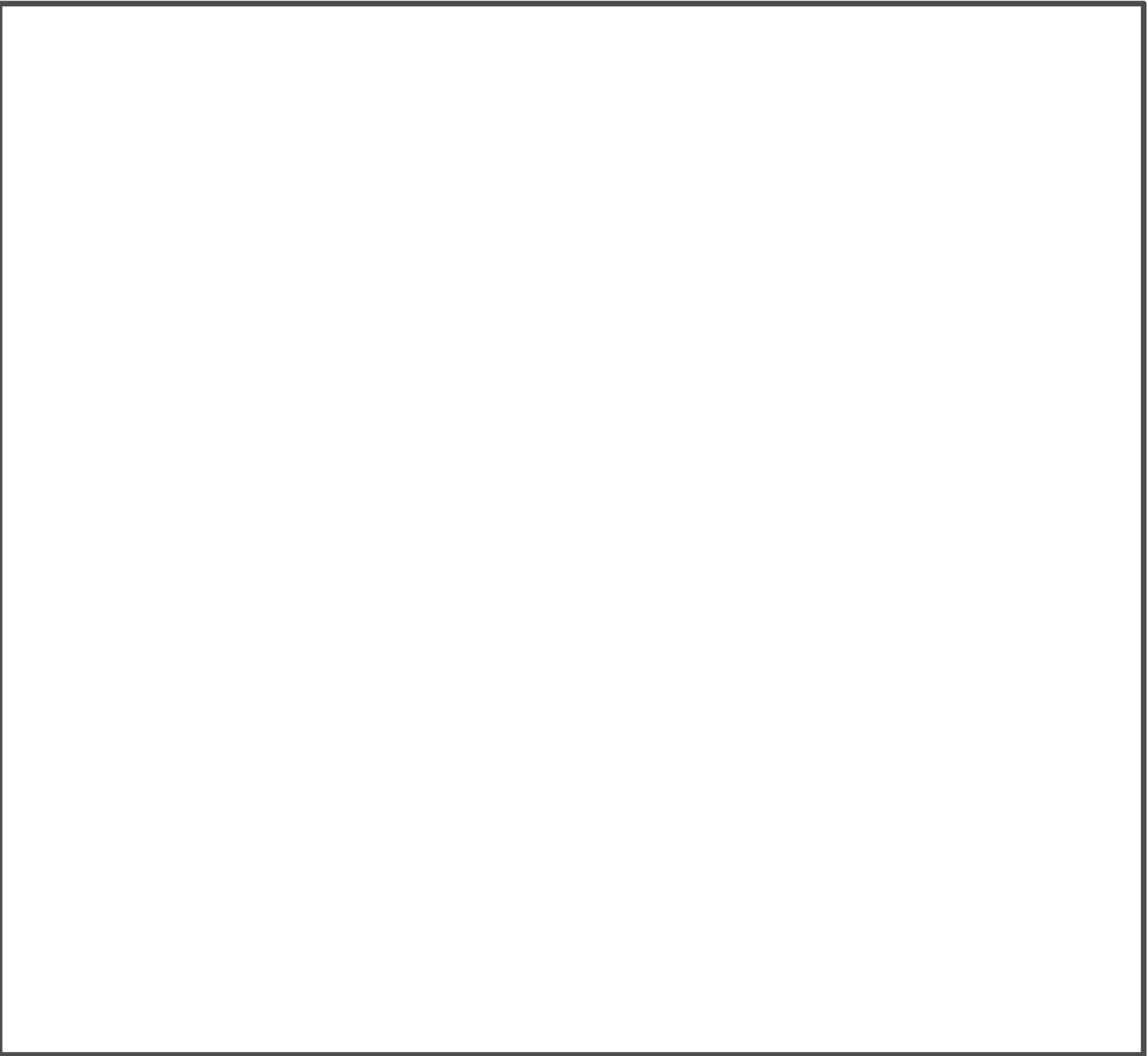


Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem Closures less than one year away

Col. Deborah Broughton Grays
Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem, Garrison Commander

Sept. 15 marked one year until Fort McPherson closes and Fort Gillem transitions to an enclave. The years since the BRAC closure list was announced in 2005 have flown by; the next 12 months will pass even more quickly. I'm thrilled to see so many employees are preparing for the closure. The participation at our quarterly BRAC town hall meetings indicates you are actively working to stay informed. The number and range of questions asked at each session show this progression - no longer am I being asked whether the installation really is going to close ... now the questions focus more on transitions as you consider moving to new jobs, retirement and other personal options. Not only are you working to stay informed, but you're taking actions to ensure your security: 39 employees have requested and been approved for VSIP (Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments). •230 employees have received early Priority Placement Program (PPP) counseling so that when early PPP took affect Wednesday, your information was complete and accurate. •Nearly 350 of you have taken advantage of the training opportunities through the BRAC career counselor at the BRAC mobile unit computer lab. Whether your plans for the future include continuing to work with the federal government, retiring, starting your own business, returning to school or something else completely, the key to succeeding in any of these endeavors is preparation. If you are interested in remaining with the federal government, contact your servicing civilian personnel representative to see how they can assist you and for more information on how you can help yourself. A BRAC career counselor can help employees with career exploration and assessment, individual training plans, Georgia work ready certification, job search preparation, labor

market information and creating a résumé. The next BRAC town hall meeting is scheduled for Nov. 18 at the Fort McPherson Post Theater. While most of you are working on your future life and career changes, for numerous individuals, those transitions are happening now. Many of our co-workers are leaving us to retire, accept employment elsewhere or follow other paths away from Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem. It is vital that we let those who are departing know how valuable their service has been. Take the time to let them know the role they have played in your professional life - whether the person is someone who is leaving your unit or who has either been your customer or provided service to you. All of our employees, military and civilian, have made a difference in the success of our mission, and it is only fitting that their departures are made a celebration of the impact they have made to the betterment of our installations. Sometimes we don't know the effect we have on other people's lives until they tell us; take the time to let someone know they have made a difference to you. Also, as we count down the days until closure, we find ourselves experiencing "final" milestones. Last week we had our final Patriot Day ceremony, and Teacher Appreciation Reception. There will be many more of these "final" events over the next year ... I hope to see the highest levels of participation and attendance. After all, each of these events are, at some level, historical. These next 363 days will be very busy. Changes will come quickly and often and we will each be tested for our flexibility, patience and resourcefulness. Whatever comes our way, your professionalism will ensure we meet those changes with the greatest success.



Spectrum

Trips’ n’ Tours in Washington, Ga.

Bonnie Heater
Signal staff

Members of the Trips’ n’ Tours group, a subcommittee of the Fort Gordon Spouses’ and Civilians’ Club, and the crew of the History Channel share a secret.

It seems there’s a mystery link to an old metal trunk nestled among the tall bookshelves in the Mary Willis Library located in historic Washington, Ga. There’s no lock on this trunk anymore. The treasure it held is gone! It’s missing!

During the Civil War the trunk held Confederate coins. It was part of the final distribution of the Confederate Treasury back in May 1865. Some of the gold is still unaccounted for. A film crew from the History Channel visited the town Sept. 12 and interviewed their historian Robert Scott Davis in front of the Regions Bank downtown, which is a replica of the Heard House where some of the historic story took place. The crew also visited the Mary Willis Library, which is Georgia’s first free public library, and the Chennault Plantation, said to be the place where the gold ended up and some of it disappeared, according to Kip Burke, The News-Reporter’s news editor who covered the History Channel’s visit.

The mystery of the location of the lost [or stolen] Confederate gold is to be one episode of 10 in a series spotlighting hidden treasures, coded secrets and forgotten fragments of history left behind by early generations. It is expected to be aired in December.

The Fort Gordon Trips’n’Tours group happened to stumble on this mystery Sept. 17 while touring historic Washington, Ga. The group carpooled to the town and joined up with Elaine Filipiak, known as ‘Miss Fanny,’ of the Miss Fanny’s Tours, located in the Chamber of Commerce Building on the town’s public square. It was here Miss Fanny shared some interesting tidbits of history that took place in the town.

“Washington-Wilkes has the most antebellum homes per capita in the state of Georgia,” said Miss Fanny. “It has over 100.”

The group toured one of those elegant antebellum while there. It was the Magnolia Cottage built in 1873. Two giant magnolia trees stand stately in the front yard. Both were planted for brides of previous owners of the home. Today the house is owned by Robert [Skeet] Willingham Jr. and his wife Ginny.

The home features 14 foot ceilings. It was remodeled into its “high” Victorian style in 1891 and has five fireplaces. “The interior wood in the home has never been painted and each fire-place in the home is made of a different type of wood,” explained Skeet. “There’s cherry, black walnut, oak, chestnut and pine.”

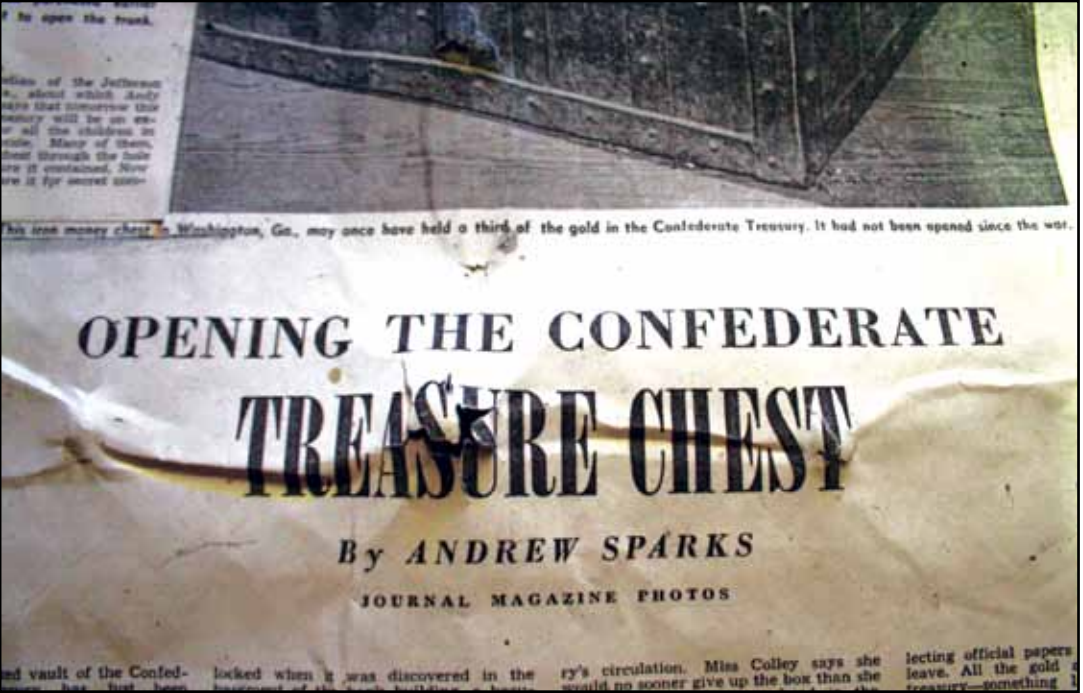
Over the mantel in the library hangs a colorful portrait of the Confederate Blockade-Runner William Ravenel from Charleston, S.C. He was never captured by the Union Army, but they did manage to shoot a bullet through his head and heart in the painting. The holes still show in the portrait. “It’s believed Margaret Mitchell modeled the fictional character, Rhett Butler, after him,” said Skeet.

After the tour of the Magnolia Cottage, the group led by Miss Fanny, took a drive tour through a few of the town’s historical sites. These included the Washington Historical Museum built in 1835, Robert Toombs’ House built in 1797, John Archibald Campbell’s home, the restored Fitzpatrick Hotel on the Square, and Country Music Singer and Songwriter, Hillary Lindsey’s home.



Elaine Filipiak points out the renovations made in the Fitzpatrick Hotel to visitors Debbie Windhorn (left) and Holly Bullock. The hotel was built in 1898 by its first owners J.H. and T.M. Fitzpatrick. Today rooms are rented out only on the weekends.

The group from Fort Gordon concluded their outing after lunch at the “Talk of the Town” and some shopping in the small shops located near the town square. For more information about the Miss Fanny’s Tours in historical Washington, contact Elaine Filipiak at (706) 318-3128. To find out information about membership in the Fort Gordon Spouses’ and Civilians’ Club contact Susie Waldman, the club’s president at (706) 854-0152 or for information about the next outing of the Trips’ n’ Tours contact Joanie Bryant at (706) 513-7868.



Photos by Bonnie Heater

This news article entitled: “Opening the Confederate Treasure Chest,” by Andrew Sparks sits on top of the original chest now placed on display in Georgia’s first free library, the Mary Willis Library. The article and photos were published May 9, 1948 in The Atlanta Journal Magazine. The outline under the photo pictured here reads: “This iron money chest in Washington, Ga., may once have held a third of the gold in the Confederate Treasury. It had not been open since the war.”



Members of the Trips’ n’ Tours begin their tour of one of Georgia’s antebellum homes, the Magnolia Cottage, which was built in 1873.



Trips’ n’ Tours participant Kathleen Ahearn crouches listening as Miss Fanny reveals the secrets surrounding the old metal trunk now situated in the Mary Willis Library, located on Liberty Street in Washington, Ga.



The “Miss Fanny Tour” advertisement board stands near the front of historical Washington-Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce.